Software for registered farmers

*44. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether IIT, Bombay has developed a software with which registered farmers can have their queries answered on a mobile phone without having to go to a kiosk or cyber cafe;

(b) if so, will farmers from Vidarbha region be made familiar with such a cost-effective mechanism through which they get answers to their agriculture and animal husbandry related questions; and

(c) the cost involved and the time-frame for starting the functioning of this software from Vidarbha?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. IIT, Bombay has developed Software AAQUA (Almost All Questions Answered) under a project undertaken at a cost of Rs. 1.62 crore out of which Department of Information Technology (DIT) funding was provided to an extent of Rs. 87 lakhs through Media Lab Asia. With the help of this software, rural users can have their queries/problems addressed by the experts. Interactions between users and experts happen *via* the web portal (www.aaqua.org) and SMS. The AAQUA site has already been responding to queries from users, including from Vidarbha. As of now, queries are answered primarily by experts from Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Baramati.

Reducing CER at garbage dumps

***45. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:**
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued directions to different Municipalities and State Governments to cut Carbon Emission Rates (CER) by treating the garbage dumps using new capping techniques and economizing the space covered by dumping grounds; and

(b) if so, the CERs earned thereby by Municipalities in different metropolises per annum as a result of such efforts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No, Sir. However, all the State Governments have been requested to explore the possibility of availing of Carbon Credits under the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

(b) The National Clean Development Mechanism Authority under Ministry of Environment and Forests has accorded approval for 16 projects related to Solid Waste Management out of which 03 have been approved by CDM Executive Board under Kyoto Protocol which is enclosed as Statement I and II *(See* below). However, CDM Executive Board has not issued any Certified Emission Reductions so far.